

# First Presbyterian Church

Kingsport, Tennessee

*Seeking to see the face of Christ...  
Striving to be the hands of Christ*

## Serving Today

**LITURGISTS:** Mark Davis - Chapel  
**GREETERS & USHERS:** Sharon Engel and Gerry Morie - Sanctuary  
**SOUND:** Olin Babb  
**TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES:** Russ Pearson  
**FLOWER DELIVERY:** Laura Drayne

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THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ARE DEDICATED  
TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
in honor of Mark Davis and the beautiful music he gives us  
by Valerie Joh.  
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Third Sunday of Easter  
April 14, 2024  
8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

## GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

BELLS OF GOD’S PRESENCE

WELCOME

PRELUDE “May Jesus Christ Be Praised” arr. Bob Krogstad  
*Donna Hathaway, pianist*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Here we have gathered; we have come to worship our risen Lord.

People: **Jesus has invited us here, “Abide in me as I abide in you.”**

Leader: We live in Jesus Christ.

People: **Those who abide in Jesus blossom and flourish in God’s wondrous love.**

Leader: As we live in Christ, our lives are changed and our spirits renewed.

People: **We live in Jesus Christ and now we are here to worship and witness to our faith.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 305 “Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we make no pretense about our lives. We forget, even deny who we are called to be. You call us to be good stewards of creation and healers of wounds, but we doubt your power flowing through us. We are called to forgive wrongs and to offer blessings, but we hold on to hurt and hold back the word of praise. You tell us to share our faith and live our beliefs, but we hesitate, afraid to appear too religious. Fill us with hope and give us the courage to share what is truly Good News: that God is love, and that Christ is Lord.**

*(silent prayer)*

KYRIE *Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.* D. Johnson

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Our God is a God of profound reversals! While we were yet captive to sin, Christ died for us.

We have been brought out of the darkness into God’s marvelous light. So let us be vigilant as Christ’s faithful disciples, encouraging one another. Friends, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

\*SUNG RESPONSE “Give Thanks”

***Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks, because we’re given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now, let the weak say, “We are strong”; let the poor say, “We are rich, because of what the Lord has done for us!” Give thanks. Give thanks.***

\*PEACE OF CHRIST

## HEARING GOD’S WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Jeremiah 2: 14-21*

GOSPEL READING *John 15: 1-11*

SERMON “Staying Connected to Christ” Mike Shelton

## RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 377 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

(8:45)

“Great God of Every Blessing”

***Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care; You are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share. How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.***

***Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace, in death and life extending your covenant embrace. In Christ we are one body; each member has a part: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.***

(11:00)

“O Breath of God”

Getty/Madeira; arr. L.Shackley

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Holy God, every act of giving and every perfect gift is born of you and of your unchanging love. It is in response to that love that we offer our tithes and offerings. Use them, and us, to advance the gospel of peace. For Christ’s sake. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

\*HYMN OF SENDING NO. 2080

“All I Need is You”

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CONCLUDING PRAISE

“Stand Up For Jesus”

arr. George J. Webb

*\*Those who are able please stand*